(b) There is no proposal for privatisation in Railways at present. However, certain off-line activities like Catering have been contracted out. As regards downsizing of staff and abolition of vacant posts, the Railways have been adopting modern technology in various facets of railway working which has resulted in reduced requirement of manpower in certain areas, necessitating surrender of posts and utilising the same to create posts in new/expanding areas. The present critical financial position facing Indian Railways also make it imperative to contain staff and other costs. Thus, a review of manpower is being done continuously, keeping in view the operational requirements. Railways have taken initiatives to rightsize the organisation by controlling fresh intake and the reduction in the strength will be through the normal process of superannuation and attrition only, without affecting the existing workforce. The organised labour is also being consulted in the matter from time to time.

Commandos on Rajdhani

4420. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 248. given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th February, 2000 and state by when Government are going to deploy armed commandos in Rajdhani trains for the security of passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : The requirement of manpower, training facilities, legal implications etc. are being examined. Hence, the date from which the Commandos will be deployed on trains cannot be indicated at this stage.

Temporary Railway Employees

† 4421. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of temporary employees working in the Railways, Zone-wise;

(b) whether any action plan has been prepared by Government to regularize them;

(c)ifso, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of action being taken by Government in this regard ?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.